

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/670,566

Examiner

Marissa L. Ferguson

Applicant(s)

KANOME ET AL.

Art Unit

2854

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to an RCE filed on 4/8/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-26.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 26 September 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Reasons for Allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Regarding claims 1, 11, 17 and 25 the prior art does not teach or render obvious an absorption belt wherein a surface of each of said plurality of electrodes, which faces in a direction of a thickness of said absorption belts is in contact with said first layer or said base layer, a surface of each of said plurality of electrodes, which faces in a direction perpendicular to the direction of the thickness of said absorption belt, is in contact with said insulating layers, said plurality of electrodes and said insulating layer are arranged alternately with each-other in the direction perpendicular to the direction of the thickness of said absorption belt, and respective volume resistivities of said insulating layer and said base layer are larger than that of said first layer.

Regarding claim 2, the prior art does not teach or render obvious a plurality of layers for covering each of said electrodes, at least two of said layers having different volume resistivities and including a first layer directly covering said plurality of electrodes and said insulating layer and a second layer disposed above said first layer, said second layer having a volume resistivity R_A smaller than a volume resistivity R_{al} of said first layer, an uppermost layer of said layers including a fluoride resin.

Regarding claims 7-9, the prior art does not teach or render obvious a method comprising the combination of steps a-h.

Regarding claim 15, the prior art does not teach or render obvious a method comprising the combination of steps a-g.

Regarding claim 20, the prior art does not teach or render obvious a method comprising the combination of steps a-e.

Regarding claim 24, the prior art does not teach or render obvious a method comprising the combination of steps a-f.

Regarding claim 22, the prior art does not teach or render obvious a plurality of terminals, each of said feeding terminals connected with each of said electrodes and disposed on the side of said belt, said terminals for feeding positive voltage to the electrode exposed outside one of a first surface, to which the object is absorbed, and a second surface opposite to the first surface, said terminals for feeding negative voltage to the electrode exposed outside the other of said first surface and second surface.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Marissa L. Ferguson whose telephone number is (571) 272-2163. The examiner can normally be reached on (M-T) 6:30am-4:00pm and every other(F) 7:30am-4:00.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Hirshfeld can be reached on (571) 272-2168. The fax phone

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number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Marissa L Ferguson
Examiner
Art Unit 2854



Daniel J. Colilla
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2854